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LIST INFORMATION
**SINCE
1998**

VALLEY GAY PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY & BERKS COUNTY'S
GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER
COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 10 NO. 10

DECEMBER 2007

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Christmas Eve Service



December 24

6 pm Service

Christmas Eve

Candlelight

Service

10:00 pm

MCC

KIDS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

RAINBOW FAMILIES

Annual Kids Christmas Party (co-sponsored by Metropolitan Community Church LV and Rainbow Families of PA Diversity Network) Saturday, Dec. 15 9-11:30am at MCCLV.

Activities will be appropriate for 2-6 year old children. Children must be accompanied by at least one parent or guardian. Songs, stories, crafts and snacks will be provided. RSVP to Carol Stevens: castidings@aol.com by December 13.

PDN PHOTO PROJECT 200 SAME-SEX COUPLES

was seen by over 300 people at Reading Area Community College in November. See more about it at the PDN web site. The Photo Project will be displayed at Congregation Keneseth Israel in Allentown in January. Read more on the PDN web site.



READING PRIDE CELEBRATION

PROUDLY PRESENTS

LEHIGH VALLEY GAY MEN'S CHORUS

SUNDAY, DEC 16 4-7 PM
WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
101 WEST WINDSOR ST, READING

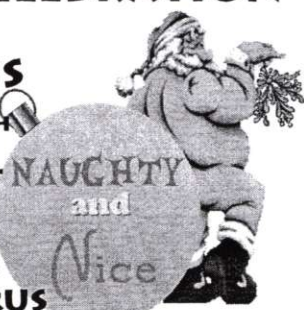
Read more about this event on page

EAT, DRINK & BE MERRY, ER, MERRY!

TAKEOVER LV
AMERICAN AIRLINES &
GAYDAR MAGAZINE
HOLIDAY PARTY TO BENEFIT
THE LV GAY MEN'S CHORUS
FRIDAY, DEC 21 7-11 PM

AMERICAN AIRLINES - BROAD & MAIN STS., BETHLEHEM

\$15 COVER includes Fresh Pasta Bar - sponsored by Diamonz, Martini Bar sponsored by the Woods Campground, Wine & Beer also available, Performance by the Gay Men's Chorus, AH Gym Membership Special, After party at Diamonz!



PLEASE SUPPORT

THE VALLEY GAY PRESS &
ALL OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S PROGRAMS
BY BECOMING A PDN MEMBER

\$15 INDIVIDUAL, \$20 FAMILY

MAIL IN YOUR DUES OR PAY ON-LINE
SECURELY & EASILY

WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

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KUTZTOWN U AIDS
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I LOVE LUCY...TO DEATH!!!

Mystery Dinner Theatre at Diamonz by White Rose Productions to benefit PA Diversity Network. Saturday, January 12, Doors open at 6:30pm. Full buffet will be served -- \$42 per person, Call Diamonz for reservations, 610-865-1028 See our own Vinnie as Rickie Ricardo.....Fred Mertz in Drag?

BECOME A PDN MEMBER TO RECEIVE THE VALLEY GAY PRESS IN THE MAIL, SEE PAGE 10.

What's That About?

2



Readers write or email "What's That About?" editor Liz Bradbury with questions about GLBT issues.



What Happened with ENDA?

****A lot of things...but here's the short version: The Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) legislation was initially introduced to Congress with both sexual orientation and gender identity in it.

Then some top Democrats, including Barney Frank and Nancy Pelosi, thought it wouldn't pass with Gender Identity in it so they took it out. Bush said he would veto any version of ENDA, and the Senate said they wouldn't consider it regardless of the Gender Identity inclusion or not.

The Gender Identity exclusive ENDA continued to move toward a House vote.

Hundreds of GLBT groups including PA Diversity Network, the National G&L Task Force, PFLAG, MCC etc. came out against the G.I.-exclusive version of the law saying, among other things, that trying to add these protections back in later would take years to achieve and that we should stand together.

The Human Rights Campaign was the only national group that said while it would rather have G.I.-inclusive legislation, they would support the sexual orientation only version.

The ENDA vote was pushed back several times by a groundswell of support for a G.I.-inclusive version (but not a G.I.-exclusive version). But ultimately the G.I.-exclusive version of ENDA advanced for a vote anyway. It passed the House. Local Congressmen Dent and Gerlach voted in favor of it (which really was a positive thing in many ways). But it has been tabled in the Senate and won't move this year. It will die and have to be reintroduced next year.

PDN's position is for a gender identity inclusive version of the law. PDN does not support a sexual orientation only version of ENDA.

Dear WTA, Univ. of Penn is hosting a GLBT College Fair (Dec 1) put on by the national org Campus Pride. Though my college is very GLBT Friendly, it isn't attending because the colleges have to pay to be in this fair. The recruitment fairs it usually attends don't charge. What's the deal on this? Why is there a fee for this GLBT college fair? **Signed Concerned Student**

Dear CS: I wrote to Shane Windmeyer, the head of Campus Pride to ask him your question. This is what he said:

"For over a decade, I have worked in higher education. I am not sure where you got your information, but the National College Fairs program, which is the leading college association for admission fairs, charges -- as do many other college admission fairs for other populations. Colleges spend thousands of dollars every year to attract athletes, international students and multicultural populations. Our fee of \$150 is nominal in comparison to any other fair (\$300 to \$500 per table)...The reason for charges are to cover costs associated with the event including rental space, a/v, tables, chairs, skirting, staffing, etc. Just in case I misunderstood your question, please know that the fair is free and open to the public for any student or family member wishing to attend." **Shane Windmeyer, Campus Pride**

(Shane also included: Please encourage (local LGBT- friendly colleges) to be part of the LGBT-Friendly Campus Climate Index... It's free and it's a great way to attract potential students to their campus. Please refer that info along to the student as a suggestion. Go to www.campusclimateindex.org/release.asp.)

JEAN PIERRE'S STORY

SCOTTY IN THE CITY

By Scott Laubner



New York is the crossroads of the world. Eight Million people, eight million stories. My apartment mates have been hosting Jean Pierre, an old friend from Paris. Jean Pierre has been cooking haute cuisine for the whole apartment and I can't remember the last time I ate so well for such an extended period. Jean Pierre's dinners always consist of a couple courses and over dinner one evening he told me a couple stories and observations.

JP says France is probably the world's perfect example of a secular state. Sex is viewed as a private matter. If a government leader has sex on the side, that's his or her own business. When the Bill Clinton/Monica Lewinsky scandal broke in America, it got very little coverage in the French press. Many Frenchmen wondered, "What is all the fuss?"

As a main course he told me a story that occurred nearly forty years ago. The sixties were a turbulent time in America. They were unrest in other parts of the world too. Jean Pierre was living in Paris in May 1968 when the university students of the Sorbonne revolted and took to the streets. Students threw up barricades on the streets, reminiscent of the revolution of 1789. Jean Pierre's own car, a Renault 4 was commandeered and made part of the barricades along with paving stones from the streets and trees chopped down from the Boulevard. Jean Pierre had a friend at the time, an Indian prince from the little kingdom of Baroda. JP knew him because he cut his mother the Maharani's hair.

JP said "Princi, I am taking you to the barricades. You live a very sheltered life and you should see how the ordinary people are living." So they went to the barricades. Princi was horrified and took off the large rings he always wore and put them in his pockets. JP, Princi, and their friends followed the students to the Odeon, a huge Parisian theater, which the students had taken over.

The Odeon theater has a special box reserved for the President of France. Princi really didn't want to mingle with the rabble so they went upstairs and sat in the presidential box. In the box, Princi felt a little more comfortable and put his rings back on his fingers. Students got to have their say with a microphone on the stage. When Princi heard some of their demands about the equal distribution of wealth, he got nervous and started to put his rings back in his pockets.

The people called for independence, freedom and this and that. Princi decided to go down to the stage. On the microphone he called for the independence of Brittany. The crowd yelled "Go back to your crepes, Suzette!" Princi got scared, scrambled up into the box and took off his rings again. The crowd yelled at the faggots in the presidential box. Then Jacqui Iskander, a friend of the writer Françoise Sagan, got on the microphone and said "Citizens, we are all gathered here in the cause of Liberty, including homosexuals!"

The crowd that had been so hostile moments ago burst into applause, completely caught up in the moment; and Princi put his rings back on.

19TH ST FILM SERIES

All films play in Theatre 514, 514 N. 19th Street, Allentown

Dec. 2-8 Ira and Abby -- The team behind Kissing Jessica Stein presents a sweet, hilarious and slightly subversive comedy that examines the issues of marriage, monogamy, and whether "I do" is the only path to lifelong love and happiness.

Dec. 9-16 Lars and the Real Girl -- Ryan Gosling stars as a delusional young guy strikes up an unconventional relationship with a doll he finds on the Internet.

Dec. 17 - 23: Bella, winner of 2006 Toronto International Film Festival's "Peoples Choice Award."

HOT NEWS

HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN MEETINGS : every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQI youth ages 14 - 20. Adult facilitator volunteers are needed for Wednesday evening meetings. Contact Pete Pellegrino havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com or visit Haven's Web page at www.uucvpa.org/haven.

GLOSS EVENTS

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. New GLBT and allied members are always welcome regardless of skill level.

The fall schedule is now in effect:

Tennis: Sundays at 3:00pm at Muhlenberg College courts. **Volleyball:** Thursdays at 7:00pm at West Catasauqua Playground.

Game Night: the 4th Monday of the month, at 6:30pm at Conway's BBQ Restaurant in Kuhnsville. **Bowling:** the 2nd Friday of the month, at 8:45pm at the Playdome in Allentown. **Pinochle:** the 2nd Saturday of the month, at 7:00pm at the Moose Lounge, 28 North 10th Street, Allentown.

Racquetball: every Thursday and Saturday, at 7:00pm at the 24/7 Fitness Club, Allentown.

GLOSS's email newsletter will keep you updated on GLOSS events. Sign-up by going to the website. GLOSS is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, they will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the GLOSS newsletter and website.

MCC FUNDRAISER SUCCESS

OVER \$10,100 RAISED AT MCCLV'S TRICKY TRAY -- October 27 was MCCLV's first Tricky Tray Fundraiser at the Se-Wy-Co Fire Hall. MCCLV raised \$10,187.05 with this one event. There were 197 people in attendance and hundreds of prize baskets were offered.

MCC thanks Tricky Tray coordinator Maureen Gillmeyer for all her efforts in making the event a success! And many thanks to all at MCCLV and in the greater Lehigh Valley community who contributed their time, talent and treasure to the event! For more information or to get involved with the 2008 Tricky Tray, contact Maureen at christian.education@mcclv.org

TOUCHSTONE ART SHOW

Interpreting the landscape: abstract nature paintings by Banana Factory artist Karla Stingerstein and winter landscape photography by Cynthia Underhill. Touchstone Theatre Gallery, 321 E. 4th St. Bethlehem. In conjunction with production of Christmas City Follies VIII. Through Dec 23rd.

MCC BOARD ELECTION

Elections for MCCLV's Board of Directors and Lay Delegate positions took place in November, with Wendy Bitterman, Maureen Gillmeyer and Lisa Schaffer elected to a two-year term to the Board. Fred Jackson and Barbara Kent-Jackson were elected to a three-year term as Lay Delegates. Robert Burton and Dean Hiatt will serve as Alternate Lay Delegates.

Also announced at the Congregational Meeting was MCCLV Pastor Beth Goudy's sabbatical, to be taken in 2008 and 2009.

CHECK OUT PHOTO ALBUMS OF THE PDN BINGO NIGHT, THE PHOTO PROJECT AT RACC, AND PDN'S HOLIDAY ART SHOW

EVENT AT

PDN'S WEB SITE:

WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

CORRECTION

Last month VGP reported on copies of Kulanu, donated to Jewish Congregations in the Lehigh Valley. The article incorrectly identified the funding sponsor, it should have said the funding came from EASTERN PA PFLAG. PDN thanks Eastern PA PFLAG for help with this project.

MCC'S FREEDOM TO MARRY DAY

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley will observe National Freedom to Marry Day in February, 2008. On Friday, February 8 MCCLV will lead a Courthouse Action and on Saturday, February 9 MCCLV will lead a worship service celebrating same-sex couples. For more information and to help with planning, phone MCCLV at 610-709-8800 or e-mail info@mcclv.org

GRANT FOR RAINBOW FLAGS

Community Activist Charles Versaggi has provided a small grant to PA Diversity Network to finance the distribution of rainbow flags to fly in front of homes in the Center City area of Allentown. If you live in this area and would like to fly the rainbow colors in front of your home, contact PA Diversity Network at 610-432-5449 or info@padiversity.org for more information.

MCCLV CHOIR UPDATE

MCCLV's Choir, B.A.S.I.C. (Brothers and Sisters in Christ), will be recording a CD, December 1. The CD's will be available for a donation of \$15. It will be a great stocking stuffer!

Also, B.A.S.I.C. has the honor of accompanying the 29th Annual Live Bethlehem Christmas Pageant. Support MCCLV's music program by attending the Pageant on December 8 and 9 at 1:45 p.m. It will be performed at the Community Arts pavilion off West Lehigh Street near the Fahy Bridge in Bethlehem. No admission charge; a good will offering is requested. The Pageant is a fully costumed re-enactment of the events surrounding the birth of Christ. For more information about B.A.S.I.C., contact MCCLV's AM Music Director Brian Jones at brian.jones@mcclv.org

MCCLV EVENTS

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley observes Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Day on Sunday, January 20 at the morning and evening worship services. All are welcome.

MCCLV's First Worship Services in New Building-- MCCLV's first worship services in its new building will be held Sunday, January 6, 2008. MCCLV will make its new home at the Silkwerks building at 930 N. 4th Street in Allentown. To help with moving the church, please call 610-709-8800 or e-mail info@mcclv.org

MCCLV Bible Study Starts January, 2008, Starting the first Sunday of January, Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley will host an Adult Bible Study every Sunday from 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. For 2008 and 2009, the Bible Study will be a biographical study of the Bible. The Study will be led by MCCLV Pastor Beth Goudy. For more information, contact Rev. Goudy at 610-709-8800 or e-mailing rev.goudy@mcclv.org. All are welcome.

LIST YOUR ORGANIZATION OR BUSINESS RESOURCE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

4 GLORA

GLORA - The Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown - is a social GLBT group.

GLORA thanks Michael for a wonderful Halloween party! The ladies did a great job on the games, the food was terrific, and the social aspect was top notch. Everyone had a great time.

Upcoming Scheduled Events:

Sunday, December 2nd - Annual GLORA Anniversary party. Kutztown Tavern, 272 West Main Street for happy hour at 5:00PM. Order own meals from the menu at 6:00. Call Nels by Friday November 30 to RSVP at (610) 754-7144.

December 15 - Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square for the Christmas display. Leave from Berks County around noon and carpool to the gardens. Call Nels to RSVP by Saturday morning.

December 31 - Pot Luck New Year's Eve party. It is a pot-luck so bring a dish to share and B.Y.O.B. Please RSVP by 12/30 at (610) 217-2502.

For details about these events, please email GLORA@dejazzd.com or write GLORA, PO Box 414, Fredrick, PA 19435. GLORA is a non-profit, social group for men and women, singles or couples. New people are always welcome!

BERKS GAY MEN'S GROUP

Berks Gay Men's Social Group - Join BGMSG for a variety of social activities for gay men in Berks and surrounding areas. For information or to sign up email: BGMSG@comcast.net. Visit the web site for a complete list of upcoming activities. www.berksmsg.com.

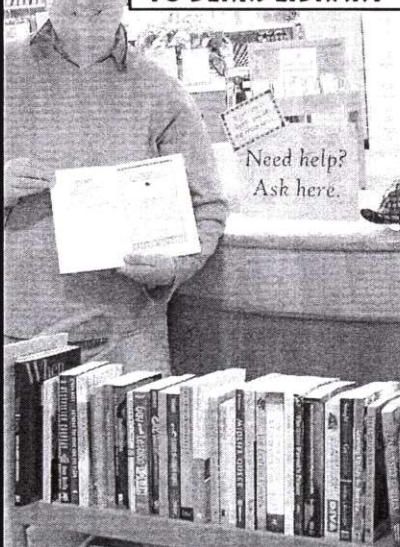
SYLVIA COMICS

SYLVIA comic artist and author Nicole Hollander has graciously agreed to let Valley Gay Press feature Sylvia comics. Grateful thanks to Nicole for this swell opportunity! To see more Sylvia cartoons check the Sylvia website: www.nicolehollander.com.

READING PFLAG (BERKS COUNTY)

Meets at 6:30pm on the THIRD TUESDAY of each month, September through May at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading & Berks County, 416 Franklin St. Reading. For information or to confirm scheduled meetings call: 610.858.9278. For more PFLAG information call the Help Lines: 610-967-5219, www.eastern-pflag.org or e-mail: info@eastern-pflag.org.

PDN ARRANGES GLBT BOOK DONATION TO BERKS LIBRARY



PDN Library Project Coordinator Val Schaeffer set up the placement of these important resources at RACC library. The books were donated to PDN by Hillary Saylor of Reading. RACC library in Berks County is a public access library. RACC Library now has the largest public collection of GLBT support texts and information in the Lehigh Valley and Berks area.

PDN List of Upcoming Events.

December 15 -- Rainbow Families Christmas Party for GLBTA families with children. This event is cosponsored by MCCLV and will be held at the Church.

January - 2008 all month -The PDN Photo Project will be on display at Congregation Keneseth Israel in Allentown

January - 12, 2008 - I Love Lucy to Death Dinner Theatre at Diamondz to benefit PDN

February 8 - 9, 2008 -- PDN will participate in Freedom to Marry Court House action and ceremony.

LGBTQA TEEN GROUP SPECTRUM IN READING

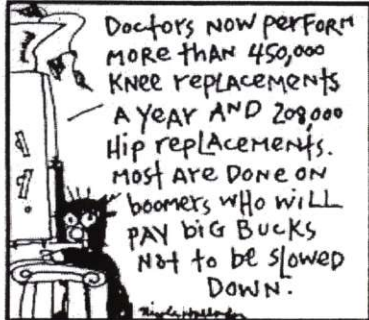
Spectrum is open to LGBTQ teens and their allies ages 14-18. Meetings are held every Wednesday evening from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on the second floor of PPNEP's Reading media center. Spectrum seeks adult volunteers to assist with the program. Criminal background checks, training and references are required. If you'd like to volunteer, contact sexuality educator and manager of Spectrum, Amber Brown at 610-376-0137.

SUPPORT GROUP - BERKS

LGBTQ Support Group has formed at Sanctuary Counseling in Douglassville. Join this group for an affirming, confidential experience of community and support! Meets the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30PM. Services are free for these groups. Nominal donations for materials/refreshments are appreciated. Sanctuary Counseling provides affirming counseling for the LGBTQ community, and is conveniently located for clients in northern Chester, southeastern Berks, and western Montgomery counties and the Route 422 corridor. Please visit the web site at sanctuarycounseling.com, or call: 610-385-3155. VGP Drop-Off spot.

SEE PHOTOS & INFO ON RECENT BERKS & LEHIGH VALLEY GLBT EVENTS AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

SYLVIA BY NICOLE HOLLANDER



SOOZ VIEWS

By Sue Sneringer

LABOR NEEDS TO ORGANIZE

Once upon a time, I stood on a picket line in Los Angeles. I'm American Film Institute Class of '88 and my commencement collided with the last big strike by the Writers Guild of America. That summer it was about getting a slice of cable and video residuals. This time it's about a fair share of Internet downloads and other tech advances that change the way we see movies and other programs containing original written material.

As I write this, the strike is high profile. The argument for the writers seems clear enough. No doubt some schmoe (probably on Fox) will opine that the strike is about pampered showbiz types on both sides arguing over who will live in the bigger mansion. And, as long as famous TV and film actors join the picket line the story will be about them more than the bulk of the membership of the Writers Guild, most of whom will never live in any size mansion. The coverage can and will no doubt be about a million and one things before the strike is done but it will seldom, if ever, rise to substance and be a real, true discussion about the value of our labor, an issue that effects everybody, way more than who is boffing who on Grey's Anatomy.

I did not stand on the 1988 Writers Guild picket line. I wish I'd had the opportunity. No, my first gig out of the AFI was waiting tables at Canter's Delicatessen on Fairfax Avenue. In its earliest days, just after heading the business west from the Bronx, the Canter brothers would hire you and send you down to the union office to sign up at the end of your first shift. Two generations later their grandkids wanted the union out. Benefits and decent wages would continue without it, they swore. I believed then and do now that management seldom, if ever gives workers a goddamn thing unless it's written down somewhere that they must. The grandkids succeeded in busting the union out of Canter's. I wonder what their benefit package looks like now.

I achieved one milestone recently in having my work published. It is the ultimate rush to open that anthology and see my play there, my name below the title! Getting my GUILD card will be another. If I was in LA today, I'd be on the picket line again. And, proudly so. Labor needs to organize wherever the workplace and if our old union models don't work, we need to create new ones that do. I know what it takes to write an original script. It's hard, stressful work. Maybe it ain't digging ditches. Maybe it ain't even lean corned beef with a side of cole slaw some days. But if you think for one minute that it's a cushy job, then I'll probably never convince you of the value of that effort. I just hope that whatever your labors are, that you value them and demand that others do, too.

LEHIGH VALLEY GAY MEN'S CHORUS

Will be singing throughout Lehigh, Northampton and Berks counties this holiday season. Upcoming appearances include:

November 29- Gaydar Magazine Holiday Party at Lee Gribbens on Main (2nd and Main Sts) in Emmaus, 8 to 11 PM.

December 2 - 11 AM until 2 PM in front of Freeman Jewelers 911 W. Hamilton St, Allentown, PA.

December 14 - 9 PM, Moose Lounge /Stonewall, 28 N 10th St, Allentown PA.

December 16 - 4:15 PM Encore performance of "Naughty and Nice," Wesley United Methodist Church" Reading

December 21 - 6:30pm American Airlines Salon (corner of Broad and Main Sts) in Bethlehem, PA.

Annual Cabaret. -- LVGMC will start rehearsals on January 8th, 2008 for their annual cabaret show. The 2008 production is entitled, "Bawdy Bits and Period Pieces." Rehearsal starts at 7 PM and new members are welcome.

5 READING PRIDE PRESENTS LVGMC

Reading Pride proudly presents the Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus on Sunday, December 16, from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in a seasonal celebration of song titled "Naughty and Nice." The concert will take place at Wesley Methodist Church, 101 West Windsor Street in Reading (corner of Windsor and Front Streets). Parking is available in a lot on Front Street.

Ticket Price is \$15.00 per person - Cash or Checks only
To order, please call Richard Spangler at 610-375-8209. Tickets are available at the door. Proceeds will benefit both Reading Pride Celebration and the Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus.

After the show, there will be a social for concert goers to meet and greet members from both organizations and enjoy fresh baked goods, coffee, and hot apple cider. There may even be a chance to sit on Santa's lap for a photo if Mrs. Claus lets you! www.readingpridecelebration.com.

READING PRIDE CELEBRATION PRESENTS



"A HO-HO HOLIDAY
BAKE SALE"



GOMEZ TACO

9TH AND FRANKLIN STREETS

READING



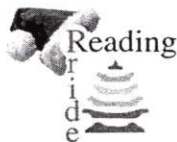
PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT
READING PRIDE 2008



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1ST

1-6 P.M.

QUESTIONS? CALL (610) 374-8050



READING PRIDE CELEBRATION
PO BOX 15242
READING, PA 19612
WWW.READINGPRIDECELEBRATION.COM
WWW.MYSPACE.COM/READINGPRIDECELEBRATION

JOIN US FOR READING PRIDE 2008
SUNDAY, JULY 20, AT CENTER PARK!

VISIT THE LIBRARIES TAKING PART IN THE PFLAG BERKS/READING ALLIANCE DIVERSITY PROJECT:

Boone Area Library - 129 N. Mill Street, Birdsboro, NEW!!
Exeter Community Library - 4569 Prestwick Drive, Reading,
Wernersville Public Library - 100 N. Reber Street, Wernersville,
Brandywine Community Library - 60 Tower Drive, Topton,
Louisa Gosner Community Library (Formerly the Kutztown Public Library)- 70 Bieber Alley, Kutztown,
Womelsdorf Community Library - 203 West High Street, Womelsdorf.

6 CALENDAR

Am Haskalah, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at 22nd and Tilghman Streets, <http://www.jrf.org/amhaskpa>, 610-435-3775
ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women, AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424

AIDSWALK- see **FACT**
ASC-AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701
BGMSG - Berks's County Gay Men's Social Group -- singles and couples social events berksmsg@aol.com

BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360
CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <civictheater.com>

CUUPS -- Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans every 4th Sunday at noon at the UUCLV. uuciv_cuups@yahoo.com

Enigma Players-- gacres@prolog.net
equal@agere- email: equal@agere.com

FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

Gaydar Magazine -- www.gaydarmagazine.com
GLEE at Air Products

GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet, <vagrathollow.com> (GLISN@)

GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown www.glora.1colony.com, glora@dejazzed.com

GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, www.gloss.org Info@gloss.org

GLOW- at PPL
HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV - call: 610-868-2153, email: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com

HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716

Integrity- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net

Infoline - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office: 610-432-5449 info@padiversity.org

INTERWEAVE -- GLBTAL group at the UUCLV. 3rd Sundays.. Interweave_UUCLV@yahoo.com, www.uuclvp.org 610-866-7652.

LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email: info@lvmgc.org, <www.lvmgc.org> 610-366-3320, rehearsals: Tues.-Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem

Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition- 610-610-997-0976, humanrights4all@aol.com, 610-814-0530 JamesHalleman@aol.com

MCC - Metropolitan Community Church, Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, mcclehighvalley@yahoo.com, <http://www.mcciv.org> 610-709-8800

Muhlenberg GSA Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244

NCC- Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541(#1386) or 610-767-0296

19th St & Civic Theatre - 610.432.8943

Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College

PA-Diversity Network- 610-432-5449 www.padiversity.org PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

PA-GALA - Pennsylvania Gay And Lesbian Alliance, (Candidate Guide, & Political Lobbying) P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610-863-0227 www.pa-gala.org

DECEMBER 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Touchstone Theatre	GLOSS	Kutztown
				Muhlenberg Theatre	WDIY	19th St
2 World AIDS Day	3 FACT Snow Ball	4 LV PFLAG LVGMC	5 HAVEN SPECTRUM	6 GLOSS RAA	7 19th St. Movie	8 WDIY
9 UUCV GLOSS	10 HMFF MCC RAA	11 LVGMC	12 HAVEN SPECTRUM TEJAS	13 RAA GLOSS	14 GLOSS	15 GLOSS WDIY
16 GLOSS	17 RAA 19th St	18	19 HAVEN SPECTRUM	20 RAA GLOSS P PFLAG	21 Gaydar Ben	22 GLOSS WDIY
23 GLOSS	24 HMFF MCC Service	25 LVGMC	26 HAVEN SPECTRUM	27 GLOSS RAA	28	29 WDIY GLOSS
30 UUCV	30 GLOSS	Touchstone Theatre	Touchstone Theatre	Touchstone Theatre	Touchstone Theatre	Touchstone Theatre

JANUARY 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	RAA	1 LV PFLAG LVGMC	2 SPECTRUM HAVEN TEJAS	3 RAA GLOSS	4	5 GLOSS WDIY
6 WDIY UUCV GLOSS HMFF	7 RAA	8 LVGMC	9 SPECTRUM TEJAS HAVEN	10 RAA GLOSS	11 RENAISSANCE	12 WDIY
13 GLOSS HMFF	14 RAA	15 R PFLAG LVGMC	16 TEJAS HAVEN SPECTRUM	17 GLOSS RAA P PFLAG	18	19 RENAISSANCE
20 GLOSS HMFF UUCV Interweave	21 RAA	22	23 TEJAS HAVEN SPECTRUM	24 RAA GLOSS	25	26 WDIY GLOSS
27 WDIY UUCV HMFF GLOSS	28	29 LVGMC	30 TEJAS HAVEN SPECTRUM	31 RAA GLOSS		

FEBRUARY 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 WDIY
3 GLOSS	4 RAA	5 LVGMC	6 HAVEN SPECTRUM	7 RAA GLOSS	8 GLOSS	9 GLOSS WDIY
10 WDIY GLOSS HMFF	11 RAA	12 LVGMC R PFLAG	13 HAVEN SPECTRUM	14 GLOSS RAA P PFLAG	15	16 WDIY
17 Interweave	18 RAA	19 LVGMC	20 HAVEN SPECTRUM	21 RAA GLOSS	22	23 WDIY GLOSS
24 GLOSS HMFF	25 RAA	26 LVGMC	27 HAVEN SPECTRUM	28 RAA GLOSS	29	

PFLAG - LV Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 www.eastern-pa-pflag.org

Pride - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <info@prideglv.org>, <www.prideglv.org>

Progressive Students Alliance - www.lehigh.edu/~inpstua/vpsa/whatpsa.htm
Quakers-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting-Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA. Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.

RAA- Rainbow AA meetings Monday & Thursdays, 7:30p. 2nd flr Church of the Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

Rainbow Families - donniearluacas@msn.com

Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., Meets at MCCLV renlv.org

Reading P-FLAG 610-967-5219

Reading Pride - Festival in Reading www.readingpridecelebration.org

Safe Space- At Lehigh U 610.758.5973

Spectrum -- LGBTQA Teen Group, Planned Parenthood, 48 South 4th Street, Reading PA 610-376-0137

Temple Sophia, Interfaith Sanctuary 570-657-6447 Pastor: Rt. Rev. Tom Cormier

T.O. - Theatre Outlet, Allentown, 610-820-9270.

UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.

VGP - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449, VGP@padiversity.org VGP PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley PA 18002 www.padiversity.org

Wachovia-GALEA- Gay and Lesbian Employee Association, Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com

WDIY - WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Sat. 6:00 pm This Way Out, Assorted Women 6:30 pm. 8100.88.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

RAINBOW AA - MON & THURS
SANCTUARY SUPPORT - 3RD MONS
GLOSS GAME NITE - 4TH MONS
LVGMC REHEARSALS - TUESDAYS
LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAYS
READING - PFLAG 3RD TUES
GLOSS TENNIS - SUNS
MCCLV TEJAS
WOMANS GRP - WEDS
LV HAVEN - WEDS
READING SPECTRUM - WEDS
MONROE - 1-3-3RD WEDS
JAN-MAR-JUN-SEP-DEC ONLY
POTTSVILLE PFLAG - 3RD THURS
GLOSS VOLLEYBALL - THURS
GLOSS RAC-BALL-THURS & SAT
GLOSS BOWLING - 2ND FRI
GLOSS PINOCCHIE - 2ND SAT
RENAISSANCE - 2ND SAT
INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAYS

DEC 1 - KUTZTOWN AIDS QUILT
DEC 1-30- TOUCHSTONE ART
DEC 1-23-TOUCHSTONE
DEC 2 - LVGMC
DEC 2 - GLORA ANNIV PARTY
DEC 2 - WORLD AIDS DAY
DEC 2-8 - 19TH ST
DEC 3 - MUHLENBERG
DEC 3 - FACTS FALL
DEC 4 - ALLENTOWN PFLAG
DEC 6-9 - CIVIC THEATRE
DEC 9-16 - 19H STREET THEATRE
DEC 14 - LVGMC
DEC 13-16 - CIVIC THEATRE
DEC 15 - GLORA @ LONGWOOD
DEC 15 - KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY
DEC 16 - READING PRIDE/LVGMC
DEC 17-23-19TH STREET THEATRE
DEC 20 - POTTSVILLE PFLAG
DEC 21- GAYDAR/LVGMC BENEFIT
DEC 24 - MCC CANDELIGHT SERV
DEC 31 - GLORA POTLUCK
JAN 6 - MCC @ SILKWERKS
JAN 12 - I LOVE LUCY/DIAMONZ
FEB 8 - MCC COURTHOUSE ACTION
FEB 9 - MCC NIFTAD EVENT

INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE!
 TO POST INFO: 610-432-5449
INFO@PADIVERSITY.ORG



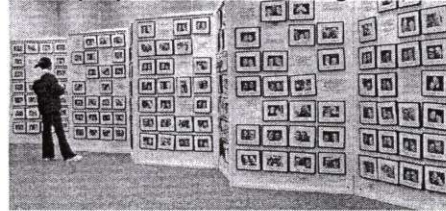
90 people attended PDNs Art Show



Muhlenberg College student
Bingo Volunteers



60 people attended PDN Bingo



300 people viewed the
PDN Photo Project at RACC

SEE PHOTO ALBUMS OF THESE EVENTS AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

TOUCHSTONE CHRISTMAS FOLLIES

Christmas City Follies, an annual holiday vaudeville production, will return to the Touchstone Theatre stage November 28 through December 23. Admission is \$15, \$13 for students and seniors. "Pay What You Will at the door" Wed, Thurs, Sun. Call Touchstone 610-867-1689

RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

BEST OF 2007

Amy Winehouse-I know, I know. Maybe she is as much of a mess as Britney. At least Winehouse makes great music. Go buy Back to Black & Frank. Now.

The Soup (El)- Joel McHale's riotous 30 minutes is to Entertainment Shows what Jon Stewart's The Daily Show is to The Nightly News.

Zac Efron, Wentworth Miller, Daniel Radcliffe- Let the gay rumors begin.

John Travolta, Jodie Foster, Tom Cruise- Let the gay rumors continue.

Into the Wild- Sean Penn, Emile Hirsch and Eddie Vedder have crafted the year's best movie. Hirsch makes homeless look hot. Until he dies of exposure. I'll stop there.

"Stuttering" by Ben's Brother- The theme from the Dentyne ads that you can't get out of your head. You're welcome. Xanadu on Broadway. I couldn't make this up if I wanted to. "Before He Cheats" by Carrie Underwood- The tough girl (gay boy) anthem of the year was by a country American Idol winner. I think I dated her. The very real possibility of a female or African-American president. We could have covered both, and lesbian too, if Oprah had run. Maybe 2012.

The Johnny Cash TV Show & Maude Season 1 on DVD. I love old TV shows on DVD. Bea Arthur & Johnny Cash. They were the same height and build and both were basses. Did anyone ever see them in the same room at the same time? Just asking.

Messes of 2007

Britney Spears- This whole list could have been Britney. Let's just place her at the top of the heap and be done with it. Lindsay Lohan-Look at her parents. You'd be a mess, too.

Perez Hilton-More proof that the internet is the spawn of Satan. Just cuz you're famous doesn't mean you have talent. Does he remind anyone else of Syndrome, the villain from The Incredibles? Just asking. Bush Administration-Seven disastrous years down, one to go. Party at my house.

Shrek 3-I love Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy and the first two Shreks. I hated this laugh-free sequel. Nancy Grace-Bringing down the curve for everyone.

Senator Larry Craig-Bringing down the curve for Nancy Grace.

Caveman-...this was before the threat of a writer's strike?

Ellen DeGeneres- After two years of making my top ten of TV shows she's making her talk show all about her. It killed the Ellen show and if she's not careful it will spell the end for her once awesome talk show. It's not therapy for you, Ellen. Edit.

The Kardashians-Being a mess seems to be the sole criterion for landing your own reality show.

Heroes Season 2- Really? Everything in Season 1 lead us to this crap? They should have let the world blow up.



by Earl and Donnie Snyder

FALL FESTIVITIES

Fall is a fun time of year for kids and for parents. It started off for us with the PDN/Wachovia Mixer held at Wachovia Bank in Bethlehem. Lucas went with us. There were one or two other kids there amongst the more than 150 guests. Surprisingly the kids were all well behaved. There were no threats to leave early, sit in a corner, or clandestine trips out to the car.

The children did make an impression on the other guests, though. In fact they were very welcome at the event, by not only the hosts but also the attendees. Lucas took many compliments, and we fielded many questions about the adoption process, child raising, and Lucas's curly hair and how we manage it—"lots of conditioner, dear."

Next came Halloween with hayrides, costume parties and trick or treat. Lucas was a cowboy this year, very butch and all boy. His dads did not transform themselves into two beautiful ladies for Halloween this year. It's not that we did not dress up in drag, it's just that we weren't beautiful. Surely everyone knows of the movie "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?" Enough said.

PDN Bingo and the PDN Holiday Craft Show followed. The dads went to both of these stag. Stag=without child. Bingo without a costume character, preferably Barney, to call out the numbers just would not be acceptable for Lucas. The college kids in drag that were assisting with the event were more than acceptable to the dads and brought a slight atmosphere of camp and lots of fun to the event. They looked fabulous and they didn't even need foundation, Blanche.

It goes without saying why we didn't bring Lucas to the craft show? Does the phrase "You break it, you buy it," mean anything? It does to most parents even when it is not posted in writing. It was not posted at the Holiday craft show and we purchased some beautiful pieces of work despite them not being broken.

Next comes Thanksgiving, the holiday where we eat too much and we struggle to get Lucas to eat something other than pie. Oh joy...but...the Gaydar holiday party is coming. There is a light at the end of the tunnel. By the time this article is printed, it will only be a fond memory for us...but then again, after a pile of turkey and a martini or two we may have no recollection of the evening at all.



**READ MORE IN THE
RAINBOW FAMILIES SECTION OF
PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S
WEB SITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG.**

HATE CRIMES LAW DECLARED UNCONSTITUTIONAL

A state court threw out language in November that expanded Pennsylvania's hate-crimes law to include crimes committed on the basis of the victim's sexual orientation and physical disabilities, ruling the legislative process that led to its passage was unconstitutional. Commonwealth Court's 5-1 ruling handed a victory to a conservative Christian group called Repent America who filed a lawsuit in 2005 challenging the amendment of the state hate-crimes law in 2002. Repent America founder and leader Michael Marcavage and others affiliated with the group argued that the amendment was passed unconstitutionally because it was inserted into legislation that was originally a bill concerning agricultural vandalism and crop destruction.

Judge James Gardner Collins wrote in the majority opinion that the final legislation bore no resemblance to the original bill by the time it was passed and signed into law by then-Gov. Mark Schweiker. "We emphasize that no matter how salutary the purpose of a bill may be, it still must comport with constitutionally mandated requirements for passage."

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RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

401K

Dear Denise, I currently work for a large corporation. I fully participate in their 401(k) plan. The company will match \$1 for \$1 up to 6% of my contributions. Currently, I have directed 15% of my income to the plan. What are the tax ramifications for myself and my partner now and in the future with this retirement plan? Should I continue to fund the plan or should I look for alternative options? Signed, Perpetual Saver

Dear Perpetual Saver, This may seem like a simple question, however, there are many dimensions to the issue. You will need to determine your objectives for today and then look at your objectives from 30,000 feet, or what is going to happen to your overall situation and your partner's somewhere down the road. Current tax consequences include the ability to fully deduct the contributions to your 401(k) plan from your income on your Federal Tax Return. This is certainly a good thing. You are paying less tax on income earned, today. Due to the ability to reduce your earned income by 15% on your tax return. This money is growing in a tax-free vehicle. I would encourage you to look at the larger picture. How do you want to pay the taxes in the future? You do have some options.

Option 1=Money from your 401(k) plan that is passed on to a non-spousal individual will be immediately taxed at your death. The tax will be calculated as ordinary income to the beneficiary identified in the year that it was received. This certainly can put your partner into a higher tax bracket in that year. One option is to take advantage of the Pension Protection Act of 2006. Contact your human resources department to determine if the company offers in-service distributions. This will allow you to transfer money from your 401(k) plan to an IRA. The IRA money can be maintained as an IRA in the beneficiary's name, thus avoiding a large lump sum tax due in one year. The beneficiary can determine how and when the tax is paid on the lump sum in the future.

Option 2=Contribute up to what the company will match in the 401(k) and redirect the additional contributions to another investment vehicle. This could be an annuity or a life insurance policy, which both provide tax shelters while living, during retirement and at death. Depending on your adjusted gross income, you may also be able to fund a Roth IRA, which can prevent you from paying any taxes on that money in the future.

The bottom line is that you will need to determine the best scenario for you and your particular family and their needs. Take some time to sit down and map out your overall situation. Investing encompasses much more than rates of returns on existing assets. There are the tax consequences, meeting your financial needs and passing monies on to heirs. It continues to be an ongoing process and your lifestyle changes.

Denise McKelvey is a Financial Advisor for Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. located at 1045 S Cedar Crest Blvd Allentown. E-mail denise.m.mckelvey@ampf.com Phone 610.439.7000

FAITH PAGES by Adrian Shanker

ROETURNING35

Get ready for the birthday party, Roe will turn 35 on January 22nd - And this is a feat celebratory for all queer-positive religious communities. To celebrate this landmark in pro-choice history, Spiritual Youth for Reproductive Freedom, a national organization for pro-faith, pro-choice young people, is mobilizing its membership in support of continued reproductive rights. There is an inherent connection between queer-positive religious traditions and pro-choice religious traditions - in many ways, it is the same issue.

The Religious Right wants America to believe that in order to be a person of faith; you have to conform to the anti-choice, anti-LGBT, gender essentialism that has plagued the queer community for decades. On this 35th birthday, I hope that we as a queer community can help strengthen the pro-choice religious movements in challenging the religious right. There is more than one way to be a person of faith, and more than one way to express our desire to end suffering. While the religious right wants us all to believe that the suffering of a fetus is a grave injustice, the queer community should stand up to the religious right demand to see an adequate theological response that specifically bans abortion. (For example, in Jewish liturgy, the Talmud states that for 40 days, a fetus is mere water, thus abortion is permitted.)

The queer-positive religious community should not shy away from discussing abortion, as it so closely relates to our battle for full equality. A pro-choice - queer positive coalition could be successful in defeating the religious right if it is given the podium of the progressive religious movements.

The fact is that a number of major religious movements support reproductive choice and are members of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, including (but not limited to) the Union for Reform Judaism, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, the Episcopal Church, the American Ethical Union, the Society for Humanistic Judaism, the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation, the Presbyterian Church, the United Church of Christ, the United Methodist Church, and the Unitarian Universalist Association.

The challenge is to build a stronger coalition. If the queer community celebrates Roe's big day in January - and continues the fight for reproductive freedom, then it is not a long shot for the pro-choice religious movements to become more vocal in the fight for LGBT equality.

**'HIV IN THE LEHIGH VALLEY'
A TALK BY ANN STUART-THACKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AIDS NET
2007 WORLD AIDS DAY
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 7PM
MUHLENBERG COLLEGE, SEEGER 113**

KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY DISPLAYS PANELS FROM THE NAMES PROJECT FOUNDATION AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT

Kutztown University will display blocks from the NAMES Project Foundation AIDS Memorial Quilt on November 30, and Saturday, December 1, in the McFarland Student Union, room 250, from 9am-9pm, and on Monday, December 3, in the MSU 218, from 9am-9pm. The AIDS Memorial Quilt commemorates World AIDS Day. The quilt is a memorial for people who have died of AIDS, honoring their lives by making people understand the devastating impact of the disease. Several panels are being displayed at the university that honor the late Keith Haring, a Kutztown native and world renowned artist.

VALLEY GAY PRESS

web site: www.padiversity.org

Publisher, Managing Editor -- Liz Bradbury

Publisher, Editor -- Patricia Sullivan

Columnists: Liz Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, Denise McKelvey, Donnie Snyder, Earl Snyder, Stephen Libby, Scott Laubner, Sue Sneeringer and others

Valley Gay Press - The Lehigh Valley and Berks County's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community Opinion and Newspaper (VGP)

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Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley

1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown 610-709-8800

PFLAG Allentown, Reading and Pottsville -- see meeting schedule

Pride House at Muhlenberg College, Allentown

19th Street Theater -- 527 N. 19th St. Allentown

Lehigh Valley Unitarian Universalist Church

(UUCLV) -- 424 Center St., Bethlehem

Haven GLBTA Youth Group at UUCLV

Theatre Outlet, 930 N. 4th St. Allentown

10 Libraries in Berks County

Planned Parenthood NEPA 48 S. 4th St. Reading

Easy Does It Clubhouse (Berks County),

Reading Community Theatre -

11th & Buttonwood Sts Reading

Allen HS GSA, Reading HS GSA, Gov Mifflin HS GSA

Wilson High School GSA, Berks AIDS Network

Berks Mens Social Group, Kutztown Univ GLBT Center

Reading Area Community College GSA

48 S. 4th St., Reading

Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Diamondz Nightclub -- 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

Stonewall Bar -- 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown

Candida's -- 247 N. 12th St., Allentown

Hava Java Coffee Shop -- N. 19th St. Allentown

Dreamscape Comics -- 302 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

The Woods Campground

Red Star Saloon -- 11 S. 10th St. Reading

Sanctuary Counseling -- 515 Old Swede Road,

Douglasville

Valley Gay Press is published 10 times a year monthly, excepting February and September.

Deadlines are the 18th of the previous month.

PDN's membership cycle begins in January.

Circulation: 1000-2000 papers per issue.

Readership: 3500, monthly, 35k readers a year.

To Contact Valley Gay Press:

Mail to: PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

Phone: 610-432-5449 Email: info@padiversity.org

To arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGP. Some restrictions apply.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

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☐ Individual dues \$15
☐ Family dues \$20

Please fill out this form and mail it with your check to PDN. Additional contribution
Make checks payable to PDN. ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ other

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LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002

BERKS COUNTY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

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**BECOME A MEMBER OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK
TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY GAY PRESS**

PA DIVERSITY NETWORK MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

PLEASE SUPPORT PDN BY PAYING YOUR DUES NOW

Membership to PA Diversity Network, which brings you a subscription to the Valley Gay Press, is just \$15 for an individual membership and \$20 for a family membership.

PA Diversity Network is a not-for-profit volunteer driven organization which supports the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community of the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. PDN's projects include: The Valley Gay Press, The GLBT Infoline, the PDN Resource Web Site, the PDN Photo Project -- 200 Same-sex Couples and Rainbow Families. PDN also fights individual instances of discrimination on a case by case basis, does presentations to organizations, educational institutions and businesses on GLBT issues, and brings the community entertaining and fun activities like special concert events, art shows, community action opportunities, Bingo, and participation with other organizations.

PDN exists and functions financially in great part on contributions and memberships from people like you. Please become a 2008 member of PDN and further support PDN with a contribution. PDN is a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization.

**PAY YOUR PDN
DUES ON LINE!**
**JUST GO TO "MEMBERSHIP" AT
WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG
IT'S EASY, IT'S SECURE.**

CIRCULATE YOUR GROUP'S INFO

VGP is a free way for GLBTA friendly groups and organizations to get their information to hundreds of people in the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. If you represent a pro-GLBT group or organization, or if you would like to start one, email PA Diversity Network (info@padiversity.org) or call the PDN offices at 610-432-5449 to find out how to list and circulate information about your group.

RAINBOW AA

Rainbow AA meetings Monday and Thursdays, 7:30pm
2nd flr, Church of the Mediator - 1620 Turner St. Allentown,
AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

SUPPORT PDN BY SEARCHING THE NET

You can support PA Diversity Network with every computer search at no cost to you. Instead of Google searches, start using Goodsearch.com as your search engine (powered by Yahoo) and choose the charity "Pennsylvania Diversity Network." Every search will give PA Diversity Network and all its programs including the Valley Gay Press, one penny. If 100 people search 2 times a day -- that is \$730 per year!

PA Diversity provides the community with a great amount of support and resources and this is an easy way to support PDN. Make Goodsearch your home page!!!

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG



LIZ OUT LOUD © 11

KEEP THIS IN MIND *By Liz Bradbury*

Recently, I was asked to serve on a panel of minority members to present information to mainstream organizations on how to get minority participation and minority financial support. In other words, I was asked to be on the panel because I'm a lesbian. OK with me. The person who asked me to participate is someone I know and respect. He wanted me on the panel because I'm outspoken...and I was.

This happens to me a lot, and I bet it happens to you too. You are asked your opinion on issues based on your perspective as a GLBT person now and then, aren't you? Next time you're asked, please keep these things in mind.

I always begin with saying there is no federal or state law that protects me from being fired from a job because I'm GLBT. In this particular forum, the man moderating the panel, actually stopped my presentation to contradict me -- he said, "This is an employment at will state, you can be fired for any reason." But I explained that while it's against federal and state law to fire someone because of race or nationality, it's legal in Bethlehem (where we were and where there is not city law) to fire me because I'm gay.

He said, "I didn't know that." I responded, "Yes, that's why I'm on this panel."

I suggested that if organizations want participation and financial support from the GLBT population they have a responsibility to be GLBT-supportive. Orgs need to have full non-discrimination policies and give domestic partner benefits to their employees.

I also added that organizations or individuals seeking support FROM our GLBT community need to investigate their own actions. Is the organization or individual a member of an anti-GLBT organizations? Do they say anti-GLBT things? Does the organization hold presentations in places that are run by anti-GLBT groups and wonder why GLBT people won't attend? I explained that saying - "I hate the sin but love the sinner" is very insulting -- "After all," I said, "I've been with my partner for 20 years, don't try to tell me it's a sin and expect me to react positively." One person in the audience had a problem with that, but the vast majority were nodding their heads.

The other minority panelists also seemed confident to speak honestly about their views. One said she'd once been asked to be on a board solely as a token and that when she spoke in meetings the other members would ignore her. Later, one of the panelists told me he was on the board of the Boy Scouts. He'd had no idea the BSA has a policy that would require them to fire me and discriminate against GLBT kids.

A few days later, a representative of a totally different mainstream organization asked me about getting GLBT people involved. I explained that I'd been asking his group to include sexual orientation and gender identity in its non-discrimination by-laws for 10 years. He said he felt the organization was concerned that support of GLBT people's rights would cause local conservative funding groups to cut their money. (And the person I was speaking with was gay!) This guy wants GLBT support but won't make an effort to explain to more conservative groups that equal rights for all people is simply the right thing to do!?!

The mainstream community has no right to ask for the creative and financial support of the GLBT community and then just leave the messy issue of equality behind. That's a line I lifted from Margaret Cho, and it's my new mantra. Please remember it every time you're asked your opinion as a GLBT person.

WHO WON THE ELECTION?

The election in November went fairly well, regarding the races that were mentioned in the last issue. Gloria Hamm - Allyson's Diane Hamm's mother, was a front runner throughout the election results evening - winning a seat as Lehigh County Commissioner. This was quite a feat since she is a Democrat and the County is heavily

TRISH'S COLUMN ©

By Patricia Sullivan

GLBT WEB RESOURCES



Are you looking for GLBT friendly businesses and service providers? Are you a GLBT business owner or professional? Too many GLBT people do not seek the regular medical care or simple legal services needed to keep their families safe and healthy because they fear discrimination or lack of empathy and understanding from prospective service providers. Instead they wait until the situation is serious and the routine tests that may have allowed for early treatment or the simple legal agreements that would have protected their or their family's interest is moot. While we all may have different personal criteria for the businesses and service providers we use, we would all probably prefer to go right to those service providers who we don't have to educate on issues of sexual orientation and gender identity.

On the Pennsylvania Diversity Network Resource Website there are over 300 businesses and organizations that are GLBT friendly and over 70% of those listings are PA Diversity GLBT Friendly Verified. That means a member of the PDN Board can confirm that "out" GLBT people have used this resource and found them to be GLBT-friendly. We continually expand our resource listings and our goal is to give community members a variety of choices when selecting supportive service providers.

We especially need GLBT people to refer businesses and service providers that they have been out to personally and have found to be GLBT friendly. The Resource Website and the GLBT Infoline serves not only Lehigh, Northampton and Berks Counties, but receives requests from all over the state including recent calls from Pittsburgh. Additional listings of professional service providers (physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists and attorneys) from the PDN target area of the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County are especially needed, but so are GLBT Friendly businesses and providers from all over PA. And particularly needed, are service providers from all PA areas who are experienced and knowledgeable about the needs of the transgender community.

If you are a service provider or business owner you may be interested to know that the website gets over 100 hits a day from regional viewers (an average of 35,000 a year) seeking information about the community including GLBT friendly professional service providers; fun things to do, social events, bars and entertainment, and news; and civil rights data and local laws.

Take a few minutes to look at our resource website: www.padiversity.org. If you are one of our readers who does not have a computer, access our website at your local library. If you know of a service provider or business that you feel should be listed and is not, complete a resource form to add it to the website. Resource forms are located right at the site, just click on the left menu. If you have feedback about a specific listing on the Resource website e-mail us at: info@padiversity.org. Consider this your contribution to help keep our community healthy and safe. The website is updated regularly (usually everyday). Dozens of listings have been added this year. And listings have been removed or updated based upon feedback we received from community members.

Republican. In Allentown, the three GLBT supportive City Council candidates, Pete Schwyer, Jeanette Eichenwald and Mike Donavon all won - bumping off long time anti-gay conservatives David Bausch and Lou Hershman (who had lost the primary for Controller). Unfortunately Dan McCaffery lost for judge. In the State Judge races the GLBT Liberty City Club endorsed Debra Todd and Seamus McCaffery for **Supreme Court** and Christine Donahue and John Milton Young for **Superior Court** and they all won.

POP QUIZ

12

1. ___ out of 10 dogs get a Christmas present:
A. 3 B. 5 C. 7 D. 10
2. Before Charles Dickens settled on the name Tiny Tim, he considered the names:
A. Little Larry B. Slim Stan C. Puny Pete D. Small
3. In what century was December 25th first designated as Christmas? A. 1st B. 4th C. 15th D. 19th
4. Opus cartoonist Berkley Breathed appeared in a recent strip mocking the post series outing of Dumbledore by (teasingly) revealing that ___ is gay.
5. Who said, "I stopped believing in Santa when I was 6. Mother took me to see him at a department store and he asked me for my autograph." A. Michael Jackson B. Shirley Temple C. Drew Barrymore D. Jodie Foster
6. A 1647 English law outlawing Christmas was overturned when the far right group ___ lost power in 1660. A. Focus on the Family B. Shakers C. Catholics D. Puritans
7. Psych's Shawn Spencer drives Detective Lassiter nuts by telling everyone Lassiter wants ___ for Christmas. A. Snow Globes B. Fruit Cakes C. Inflatable Yard Characters D. Viewmasters
8. The technique to make candy canes was 1st written down in a recipe collection in: A. The Han Dynasty B. 1st Cen. Rome C. 13th Cen. Baghdad D. 15th Cen. Vienna
9. In the Ukraine, animals were historically believe to be able to ___ on Christmas Eve:
A. speak B. sing C. laugh D. eat figgy pudding
10. Real reindeer come from: A. Iceland B. Turkey C. The Himalayas D. Lapland

1. C 2. A, C, D 3. B 4. G, A, F 5. B 6. D 7. A, B, C 9. A 10. D

VALLEY GAY PRESS BOOK REVIEW A Twist of Lime: A Lynn Evans Mystery by Claudia McKay

I really wanted to like this book. It had potential - lesbian mystery, warm sandy beaches, romance, intrigue... But it didn't pay off. While the descriptions of the landscape in Belize were fairly lush, the character development and action seemed stunted and flat.

There's really no mystery for the reader to figure out, no clues, just the solution revealed at the end.

When main character of the series Lynn Evans meets the sultry Ivette, there's little tension and their ultimate affair is so abbreviated it seems as though a prudish editor cut it out and substituted the words, "they made love." In fact the whole book seems cut down, maybe it was, at only 188 pages.

At least the characters don't suffer from low self-esteem and internalized homophobia, like many characters in other lesbian mystery stories of the last ten years. So good for Claudia McKay on that point.

McKay has written other novels more recently, (she wrote this in one 1997). I'd bet she could pull off a better effort if she has better editorial help and less restrictions (and someone would let her use contractions in her dialog, after all, that's the way people talk!). Here's hoping.

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

- PA Diversity Network
- GLBT Infoline
- PA-GALA
- Rainbow Families
- Valley Gay Press
- Allentown Human Relations Commission
- Safe Space of Lehigh University
- PFLAG Lehigh Valley
- ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women
- GLORA
- Pride of the GLV
- LV Gay Men's Chorus
- NCC GLBT Student Union
- The Lehigh Valley Labor Party
- EQUAL! at Ager
- Metropolitan Community Church LV
- OutThere - Cedar Crest
- 9th Street Shelter Allentown
- LV Community Action Committee
- GLEE at Air Products
- FACT
- AIDS Outreach
- The Unitarian Universalist Church LV
- GLOSS
- LEPOCO
- GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet
- AIDS Services Center
- Theatre Outlet
- Integrity - Bethlehem
- The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
- Civic Theater 19th Street Theatre
- The Latin Alliance
- The Enigma Players
- New Covenant Family Ministries
- Properties of Merit
- Allentown City Democratic Committee
- Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem
- Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance
- Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley
- Muhlenberg Theater Association
- Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley
- Touchstone Theater
- Congregation Am Flakalah
- The Lehigh Valley Progressive Students Alliance
- The Consistory of St. Peter's UCC - Allentown
- United Friends School Quakertown
- LV Transsexual Coalition
- Lehigh Valley Transmen

Contact VGP to list your organization

Plans are being made for the PDN Photo Project- 200 Same-sex Couples: Facing Inequality to be on display throughout the month of January at Congregation Keneseth Israel at 23rd St. and Chew in Allentown. Rabbi Dr. Robert B. Lennick has indicated that the Project may be the focus of the ecumenical M.L. King service on Friday, January 18, 2008. See more information at the PDN web site and in the Jan-Feb issue of the VGP.

QUOTE #1

"Let us give thanks for the Allentown Human Relations Commission gathering us here. Let us give thanks for the honorees tonight and their commitment to building a better society." -- MCCLV Pastor Beth Goudy in her benediction at the AHRC awards banquet

QUOTE #2

"Be careful whom you hate; it may be someone you love."
-- From the Eastern PA PFLAG Newsletter

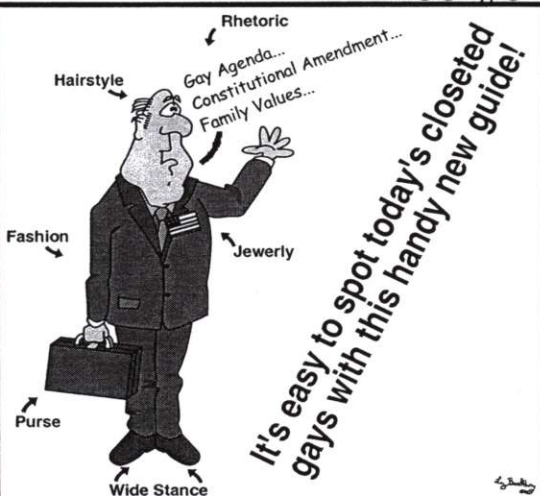
QUOTE #3

"I told him Ryan and I got engaged to be married, and I'd like him to consider whether he would officiate our ceremony." -- Micah Mahjoubian on asking his boss Phil Mayor John Street, to lead the ceremony at his same-sex wedding. Street agreed to do so, though years ago Street had been considered a major foe to the GLBT community

QUOTE #4

"I was very excited to meet PFLAG National Executive Director Jody Huckaby in the elevator, and then meet him again later with none other than Dear Abby. I shook her hand and said, "Thank you for being here" and she said, "The pleasure is all mine." --Local PFLAG Board member Kim Henning on attending the national PFLAG Conference in Washington DC.

Distelfink ©2/07 by Ruby Zebu The New Gay Stereotype



CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG